

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated March 16, 2005. Claims 1, 7, and 9 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 are pending. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner states that an ignition switch cannot be differentiated from a starter switch and a key interlock switch. Claim 9 has been amended to cancel "an ignition switch, a starter switch and a key interlock switch." Hence, the rejection of claim 9 has been rendered moot. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the aforementioned reasons, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,553,488 to Ishii et al. ("Ishii"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

The present invention is directed to a control unit for a vehicle having a self-diagnosis function for self-diagnosing a verification of a reception of a signal concerning a switch based on various vehicle information data. Claim 1 has been amended to state that a function checker, which is connected by connecting means, outputs a predetermined control signal into the control unit when the function checker receives a predetermined signal from the vehicle information data (page 6, lines 12-26 of the Specification). The predetermined control signal causes the control

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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